Today's News - Wednesday, October 17, 2007

An impressive shortlist for post-2012 Olympics master plan. — PlaNYC2030 should take lessons from London re: setting efficiency standards on commercial property. — Architects' refusal to embrace technological innovations invites their extinction. — Why aren't all buildings architectural (and sustainable) gems? — Architecture as crime-prevention strategy: make the criminals fearful. — It's thumbs-up for Chipperfield's re-design of Tumer Contemporary. — Goldberger is tickled by Alsop's wit. — On Meier's "restless imagination" and "demiurgic aura." — On student housing and the drive for quality. — In Sarasota, a pioneer project in retirement living gets ready for major makeover. — Edinburgh's Music Box ready to hit the high notes. — China's Tongji University is determined to be the champion in clean technology. — Will it be Powell Buff or London Fog for Guggenheim's restored façade? — Sir Basil Spence: a retrospective and a reassessment of his reputation. — Battle of Ideas Festival launches next week. — How to photograph a green building. — We couldn't resist: a slide show of Levittown through the years.

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Olympic shortlist announced for legacy masterplan: Six make shortlist for for post-2012 regeneration of Lower Lea Valley and Olympic Park -- EDAW/Allies Morrison/McDowell + Benedetti/Caruso St John/Haworth Tompkins/Maccreanor Lavington/Panter Hudspith/S333/etc.; Arup/Fletcher Priest Architects/West 8, RPS/etc.; Urban Practitioners/Maxwan/etc.; Kees Christiaanse Architects; Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA); Witherford Watson Mann-Building (UK)

Cleaning Up New York's Buildings: ...ambitious PlaNYC2030 is largely silent on reducing pollution from buildings other than those built or owned by the city...Can New York City expect to meet its goal of reducing overall emissions...if it does not move aggressively – like London – to encourage and...impose efficiency standards on commercial property, one of its largest polluting sectors?- Gotham Gazette (NYC)

Innovate or Perish: New Technologies and Architecture's Future: Architects' refusal to embrace technological innovations invites their extinction. Less hidebound professions are ruthlessly shoving their way onto the turf once the sole domain of architects.-Harvard Design Magazine

All buildings should be design gems: It is too easy for architects to sit back and criticize society for not placing appropriate value on architecture and design. Unfortunately, I believe we architects may have fostered this attitude ourselves. By Daniel Goodspeed, FRAIC -- 2030 Challenge- Daily Commercial News (Canada)

Safer by design: Crime-prevention strategy focuses on architecture: The approach — call it a blueprint for public safety — looks at ways to affect the behavior of criminals...is to make would-be criminals feel "unsafe" to carry out their ill intents. — Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design/CPTED- Sacramento Bee (California)

New Turner gallery plans welcomed: Widespread approval has greeted the redrawn designs for a new £17.5m Turner Contemporary in a Kent seaside town. — David Chipperfield [images]- BBC News

The Colorist: The playful world of Will Alsop: ...[his] playfulness makes him unusual—wit is in short supply among architects today—but his work, on closer inspection, is just as notable for the commonsensical attitudes it embodies. Byy Paul Goldberger- The New Yorker

The builder of dreams: Richard Meier's restless imagination reaches beyond architecture into every corner of his life..."You're not going to change the world through architecture," Meier tells me — but I know he is thinking that he will give it a shot.- The Times (UK)

Student residences — Cost model: Simon Rawlinson of Davis Langdon explores this dynamic and price-conscious market...The drive for quality is, however, not without its critics.- Building (UK)

Plymouth Harbor senior living towers considering \$100 million expansion: ...was a pioneer in retirement living when it debuted in May 1966. -- Frank Folsom Smith (1966); THW Design; The ADP Group- Herald- Tribune (Florida)

RMJM's Music Box opens in Edinburgh: Stevenson College has unveiled its £3.85m music and performing arts centre [images]- Building (UK)

Ecological education: 100-year-old Tongji University, one of China's leading engineering schools, is determined to be the champion in clean technology...students founded an energy-saving supervisory team on campus, not only to supervise but also to educate...- China Daily

A decorating dilemma at Guggenheim Museum: Warm yellowish beige or cool, grayish white? ...sentiment split between historic preservation groups...and neighborhood organizations...- NY Newsday

Back from Coventry: "Back to the Future: Sir Basil Spence, 1907-1976" at the Dean Gallery, Edinburgh...body of work shows enormous and imaginative variety.- The Scotsman (UK)

Let's be frank about Spence: He triumphed in Coventry, failed in Glasgow and received mixed reviews throughout his life. Matt Weaver reassesses the architecture of Sir Basil Spence...Now there is an attempt to revive [his] reputation...Does Spence deserve this renovation job? [slide show]- Guardian (UK)

Battle of Ideas Festival: two-day festival of high-level, thought-provoking debate at the Royal College of Art, Kensington, London, October 27-28 – Jonathan Glancey; Naresh Fernandes/Time Out India; Tony McGuirk/BDP; Austin Williams/Future Cities Project; etc.- Institute of Ideas

Shooting Green: What's the best way to photograph a green building? By Lance Hosey — Ezra Stoller; Prakash Patel; Paul Hester; Timothy Hursley [images, slide show]-Architect Magazine

Levittown Through the Years: Sixty years ago the houses of Levittown, N.Y., were modest little boxes. Today, they have been renovated beyond recognition. [slide show]-New York Times

Morphosis: United States Federal Building, San Francisco -- Thom Mayne

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